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Approved For Release 2004/09/03 : CIA-RDP81M00980R001700070067-4

Washington, D.C. 20505

30 June 1978

OLC RECORD COPY

Honorable Elmer B. Staats  
Comptroller General of the  
United States  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D. C. 20548

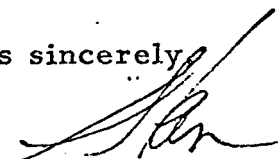
Dear Elmer:

As a result of your June 1, 1978 letter and our recent informal discussions on the subject, I have reexamined our current policy with respect to providing you and members of your organization with access to sensitive intelligence information. While I can understand your point of view with respect to GAO needs for such information I feel I must maintain at least for the time being, the policy which I have previously adopted in this matter.

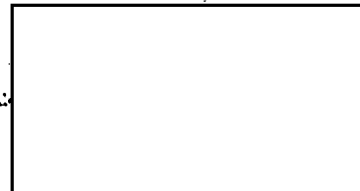
I have reached this decision only after extensive discussions with my colleagues and considerable in-depth thought on the subject. In light of the damage to intelligence activities that has been caused by the numerous leaks of sensitive intelligence information which have occurred recently, I feel my responsibilities as the Director of Central Intelligence to protect intelligence sources and methods compel me to reach this conclusion. I do not mean to imply that the leaks have come from GAO and I appreciate your concern with and your efforts to ensure that information in the possession of GAO is appropriately safeguarded. However, as you know, the probability of leaks occurring of sensitive intelligence information is directly related to the number of people having access to such information and I feel I must do all within my power to restrict the dissemination of such information in all branches of Government.

I will continue to study the matter to see if some method can be found whereby each of our responsibilities can be adequately fulfilled, but at this time I feel I must maintain the present policy.

Yours sincerely,



STANSFIELD TURNER



Enclosure  
Attached is a classified report on terrorism in which was requested by your International Division. We do try to be helpful whenever we can.  
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